

*Speeches*  
*October*

REMARKS BY GOVERNOR JAMES B. EDWARDS  
TO THE GREENVILLE REALTORS ASSOCIATION  
OCTOBER 22, 1976

IT IS INDEED A PLEASURE FOR ME TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE WITH YOU TODAY. I ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO BEING WITH MY FRIENDS IN THE GREENVILLE AREA.

I WOULD LIKE TO SPEND A FEW MINUTES SHARING SOME OF THE THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED DURING MY FIRST TWO YEARS AS YOUR GOVERNOR. AS YOU KNOW, DURING MY CAMPAIGN I STRESSED THE NEED FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND OPENNESS, NOT ONLY IN LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT, BUT ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL.

WHEN I ENTERED OFFICE, OUR STATE GOVERNMENT HAD MADE MANY LONG RANGE COMMITMENTS WHICH NECESSITATED A SPENDING SPIRAL PROBABLY UNEQUALED IN THE HISTORY OF OUR STATE GOVERNMENT. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT TAX REVENUES WOULD SOON BE OUTSTRIPPED BY STATE SPENDING, MUCH THE SAME AS WE HAVE FOUND IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. I CALLED TOGETHER THE TOP MINDS IN SOUTH CAROLINA IN AN ATTEMPT TO FORMULATE A PLAN TO INSURE THERE WOULD BE NO INCREASE IN TAXES DURING MY ADMINISTRATION.

I MET WITH AND CONTINUED TO WORK VERY CLOSELY WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE BUDGET AND CONTROL BOARD AS WE RIDE HERD ON THE DOLLARS REQUESTED BY THE NUMEROUS STATE AGENCIES.

IN REVIEWING THE BUDGETS AND PROGRAMS OF THE STATE, MY MAJOR THRUST HAS BEEN TO: (1) REDUCE THE SIZE OF GOVERNMENT; (2) ENHANCE THE EFFICIENCY, AND AS A NET RESULT OF BOTH OF THESE TO REDUCE THE DOLLAR EXPENDITURE. THE SECOND MAJOR THRUST WHICH I HOPE WE CAN ACCOMPLISH BEFORE MY TERM IS OVER IS TO TIE OUR STATE BUDGET TO PERSONAL INCOME.

THE THEORY OF TYING THE BUDGET TO THE STATE INCOME IS TO INSURE THAT OUR GOVERNMENT CAN GROW BUT AT THE SAME TIME TO INSURE THAT THIS GROWTH IS DIRECTLY REFLECTIVE OF THE GROWTH OF EACH INDIVIDUAL IN THE STATE. AS THE ECONOMY WARMS UP, OUR PEOPLE WILL MAKE MORE MONEY; THEREFORE, OUR STATE GOVERNMENT CAN SPEND MORE. AS THE ECONOMY COOLS DOWN AS IT HAS IN RECENT YEARS, THE STATE SHOULD FEEL A MORAL OBLIGATION TO SLOW DOWN SPENDING TO MATCH THE INCOMES OF THE PEOPLE WE REPRESENT.

IN 1965, THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BUDGET WAS <sup>\$241,000,000</sup> ~~\$2,441,000.~~ BY 1976, IT HAD SURPASSED THE \$1 BILLION MARK. DURING THE SAME TIME IN HISTORY, THE RANKS OF STATE EMPLOYEES MUSHROOMED FROM 22,788 TO AN ESTIMATED 52,000.

THE TREND TOWARD GROWING GOVERNMENT IS A REAL THREAT TO THE INTEGRITY OF THE STATE AND THE NATION.

SOME EXAMPLES OF WHAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH ARE DIRECTLY REFLECTED BY THE BUDGETS FOR 75-76 AND ~~THE~~ 76-77 ~~BUDGET~~. WORKING WITH THE BUDGET AND CONTROL BOARD IN 1975-76 THE BUDGET REQUESTS WERE REDUCED BY MORE THAN \$92 MILLION. AGAIN LAST YEAR, THE BUDGET REQUESTS WERE CUT BY \$197 MILLION. GENTLEMEN, THAT MEANS THAT OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS WE HAVE SAVED THE SOUTH CAROLINA TAXPAYERS MORE THAN \$250 MILLION.

CUTTING BACK IN PROGRAMMING DOES NOT INDICATE A REDUCTION IN SERVICES BY THE STATE FOR THE PEOPLE. THESE CUTBACKS WERE IN AREAS WHERE THE BUDGET AND CONTROL BOARD AND I BOTH CONCURRED THE STATE COULD DO WITH LESS SERVICES OR THE PROGRAMS COULD BE STREAMLINED FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL.

IN THE AREA OF MOTOR VEHICLE MANAGEMENT, SOUTH CAROLINIANS HAVE BEEN SAVED \$1.7 MILLION SIMPLY THROUGH THE INSTITUTION OF TIGHTER CONTROLS.

WHEN I TOOK OFFICE, THERE WAS A 10 PERCENT PLUS GROWTH TREND IN THE NUMBERS OF STATE EMPLOYEES. I CALLED FOR TIGHTENING OF PERSONNEL PRACTICES AND AN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HIRING FREEZE. THIS HAS SAVED OVER \$6.3 MILLION.

THERE HAVE BEEN MANY OTHER AREAS IN WHICH THE LOOSE USE OF MONEY HAS BEEN CURTAILED. ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE SIDE, ONE ACTION I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH WAS THE ADOPTION OF THE HOME RULE ACT WHICH GIVES OUR VOTERS IN EACH COUNTY A REAL SAY IN THE TYPE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT THEY FEEL BEST SERVES THEIR NEEDS.

A SECOND LEGISLATIVE ACTION WHICH I FEEL LIKE WAS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF GOVERNMENT WAS THE ADOPTION OF ETHIC LEGISLATION. WE NOW HAVE A POSITIVE VEHICLE TO JUDGE THE ACTIONS OF ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA. IN VIEW OF OUR RECENT HISTORY, IN VIEW OF PUBLIC CONCERN, THIS WAS A DYNAMIC PIECE OF LEGISLATION.

YOU GENTLEMEN FOR MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS HAVE REPRESENTED THE BACKBONE OF THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY IN THE GREENVILLE AREA. YOUR ASSOCIATION IS HIGHLY REGARDED THROUGHOUT THE STATE AS EVIDENCED BY THE NUMBER OF TOP STATE OFFICIALS SELECTED FROM THE GREENVILLE REALTORS ASSOCIATION.

AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE <sup>of the</sup> ~~IN SOUTH~~ CAROLINA<sup>S</sup>, I SEE MANY GOOD INDICATORS ON THE HORIZON.

FOR MORE THAN A DECADE NOW, THERE HAS BEEN A MIGRATION OF MAJOR INDUSTRIES OUT OF THE NORTH AND NORTHEAST TURNING SOUTH FOR A NEW HOME FOR THEIR PLANTS AND THEIR INVESTMENTS.

IN 1964, NEW YORK WAS THE HOME OF OVER 27% OF THE NATION'S 500 LARGEST FIRMS. IN THE PAST 10 YEARS, 42 OF THOSE COMPANIES HAVE LEFT THE NORTH. OTHER LARGE NORTHERN AND MIDWESTERN CITIES HAVE SUFFERED SIMILAR LOSSES. ALMOST 32 PERCENT OF THE NATION'S 1200 LARGEST COMPANIES ARE NOW CONSIDERING MOVES TO NEW AREAS TO ESTABLISH REGIONAL OFFICES. <sup>the</sup> ~~SOUTH~~ CAROLINA<sup>S</sup> <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ ONE PRIME POTENTIAL MOVEMENT AREA FOR ALL OF THESE COMPANIES.



THERE ARE MANY OTHER CAUSES FOR THIS INFLUX OF INDUSTRIES. WE WERE ONE OF THE FIRST STATES TO ACCEPT PEACETIME NUCLEAR ENERGY. THIRTY-FIVE PERCENT OF ALL ELECTRICAL POWER IN SOUTH CAROLINA IS GENERATED BY NUCLEAR MEANS.

OUR TECHNICAL EDUCATION SYSTEM IS SECOND TO NONE. WE NOT ONLY CAN PROVIDE LABOR, WE ALSO HAVE THE MEANS TO TRAIN LABOR TO MAKE THEM PRODUCTIVE THE FIRST DAY ON THE JOB.

FINALLY, IN SOUTH <sup>the</sup> ~~CAROLINA~~ PROFIT IS NOT A DIRTY WORD. WE RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLE TO PURSUE THE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM. IN GOVERNMENT, WE SUPPORT THE PROFIT-MAKING SYSTEM AND REALIZE IT TO BE THE PRIME MOTIVATING FACTOR FOR NEW INDUSTRIES TO LOCATE IN OUR AREA.

THIS IS THE SITUATION WE FACE TODAY. BUT I WOULD CAUTION EACH ONE OF YOU TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD SO THAT WE DO NOT LOSE OUR TAX ADVANTAGE, SO THAT WE DO NOT LOSE OUR TECHNICAL EDUCATION SYSTEMS, AND SO THAT WE DO NOT LOSE THE INCENTIVES THAT BRING INDUSTRY TO SOUTH CAROLINA TO PRODUCE JOBS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE WILLING TO WORK.

YOUR PARTICULAR AREA OF INTEREST IS IN HOUSING. WE MUST PUSH TO INSURE THAT THERE IS ADEQUATE HOUSING FOR ALL SEGMENTS OF OUR PEOPLE. WE MUST MAINTAIN HIGH ETHICAL STANDARDS AS WE PUSH FORWARD TO PLAY A MATCHING ROLE WITH NEW INDUSTRY AS IT RELOCATES IN OUR STATE.

WHY DO WE SEE A MIGRATION OF INDUSTRY FROM ANY AREA TO ANOTHER AREA? THERE ARE MANY CAUSES, SUCH AS TAXATION, DECLINE IN QUALITY OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES, HIGH AND INCREASING CRIME RATE, CONGESTION, ABSENCE OF MOTIVATED AND PRODUCTIVE LABOR FORCES.

WHY SOUTH CAROLINA? THE ANSWER IS BEST EXPRESSED BY A VICE PRESIDENT OF A LEADING FIRM WHICH LOCATED IN OUR STATE. HIS RESPONSE WAS AS FOLLOWS, "INCREASE IN PRODUCTIVITY OF BETWEEN 2 AND 2½ HOURS PER DAY PER MAN IN <sup>the</sup> ~~SOUTH~~ CAROLINA<sup>S</sup>. AN EFFECTIVE SPENDABLE INCOME INCREASE PER MAN OF 20 TO 25 PERCENT BASED ON NORTHERN STATE WAGES. INCREASE IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS OF ABOUT FOURFOLD BY SOUTHERN MANAGERS. AND FINALLY, AN OVERT INCREASE IN POSITIVE ATTITUDES."

THESE ARE NOT MY COMMENTS. THESE ARE COMMENTS MADE BY A MAN WHO MADE THE DECISION TO RELOCATE <sup>his company</sup> ~~IN OUR STATE~~. THERE ARE <sup>the companies</sup> OTHER INCENTIVES FOR SOUTH CAROLINA. FIRST, WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT TAX CLIMATE FOR INDUSTRY. SECOND, LOCAL AND STATE PER CAPITA TAX BURDENS ARE AMONG THE LOWEST IN THE NATION. AND FINALLY, WE DO NOT OVERTAX OUR BUSINESSES IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

IN THIS STATE, OUR LABOR FORCE IS GROWING AT A RATE OF 8.8 PERCENT. THIS IS NEARLY TWICE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE. THE 1980 POPULATION PROJECTION PREPARED THREE YEARS AGO BY THE U. S. BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS HAS ALREADY BEEN SURPASSED BY OUR STATE.

INCREASE IN PER CAPITA INCOME FOR ALL PEOPLE. THIS WILL BE FAVORABLY REFLECTED IN YOUR GROSS AND NET SALES IN YEARS TO COME.

FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION THE UPCOMING ELECTION TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 2. IT IS NO SECRET THAT I AM <sup>backing</sup> ~~AM~~ ~~AND~~ GERALD FORD SUPPORTER. IN FACT, HE WILL BE VISITING IN SOUTH CAROLINA TOMORROW EVENING. I SEE IN MR. FORD A VIABLE LEADER FOR THE FUTURE, ONE WHOSE HOPES AND DREAMS FOR THE NATION ARE VERY MUCH AKIN TO OUR HOPES AND DREAMS FOR SOUTH CAROLINA. HE REALIZES THE NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SECTOR AND HAS DONE ALL IN HIS POWER TO REDUCE THE BURDEN OF GOVERNMENT ON THE PEOPLE AND LOOSE FUNDS TO BE USED FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

IF CARTER IS ELECTED, SOUTH CAROLINA WILL LOSE MONEY AND JOBS THROUGH THE REPEAL OF 14-B. SOUTH CAROLINA WILL LOSE ITS RIGHT-TO-WORK LAWS AND ONE OF ITS MAJOR INDUSTRIAL ENTICEMENTS.

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DICTATED BY J. STROUD